

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

FOLEY *et al.*

Appl. No. *To Be Assigned* (Divisional of Appl. No. 09/907,022; Filed: July 17, 2001)

Filed: HEREWITH (August 20, 2003)

For: **System and Method for Securing a Plate to the Spinal Column**

Confirmation No.: N/A

Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket: 2165.0010003/LEA/ALF

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. This Preliminary Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent

abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.